

CRRBC 2020 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

SESSION 1 Monday, June 8, 2020 (all times Eastern Standard Time)

- 11:00am – **Conference Introductions and Overview**
11:10am
- 11:10am – **KEYNOTE: COVID-19 and Why Addressing the Rural Digital Divide Matters More than Ever**
11:30am
COVID-19 has awoken all of us to the criticality of ubiquitous, reliable and affordable broadband access - for ALL.
- 11:35am – **Panel: Government’s Role in Addressing the Challenges of the Rural Digital Divide**
12:35pm
The Pandemic has applied renewed pressure on all levels of government to address the digital divide. What should governments do – from policies to funding – as the future is now upon us?
- 12:35pm – **BREAK**
1:00pm
- 1:00pm – **Panel: First Nations Broadband Connectivity**
1:55pm
Global events have highlighted the digital divide especially in First Nation communities. A discussion on the opportunities and challenges of new models and partnerships.
- 2:00pm – **Panel: Economic Realities of Funding Rural Projects**
2:55pm
Rural and Remote Broadband projects have challenging business cases and are difficult to sustain. Are there different models to consider?
- 2:55pm – **Day 1 Closing Remarks**
3:05pm

SESSION 2
Tuesday, June 9, 2020
(all times Eastern Standard Time)

- 11:00am – **Conference Day 2 Introductions and Overview**
11:15am
- 11:15am – **Panel: Rural Community Broadband Models**
12:10pm *A cross section of communities and regions discuss how they are trying to address their broadband challenges while coping with the realities of COVID-19.*
- 12:10pm – **The Promise of Technology and the Next Big Thing**
12:35pm *The potential for a new technology to deliver communications to rural areas including an overview of the realities of 5G, Low Earth Orbit satellites and other advancements.*
- 12:35pm – **BREAK**
1:00pm
- 1:00pm – **Panel: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly - Lessons Learned from Deploying Broadband Projects**
1:55pm *Vendors talk about the realities of implementing their projects and some painful insights.*
- 2:00pm – **Panel: Measuring and Assessing a Rural Project's Technical Viability**
2:55pm *The questions of validating and measuring a rural broadband project's technical success will be discussed. It is critical to identify what the problems to be solved are and how their respective solutions should be assessed.*
- 2:55pm – **Conference Closing Remarks**
3:05pm

Topics and times subject to change.